THE INTERACTION OF THE GALILEAN SATELLITES WITH JUPITER'S MAGNETOSPHERE

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The *Galileo* orbiter has provided radio occultation measurements of the electron density profiles of the plasma surrounding Io and Europa. There have been six occultations of Io, providing twelve electron density profiles at various locations relative to the ram direction of the impinging particles of the Jupiter magnetosphere on Io, and eight profiles on Europa. The two satellites were found to have very different plasma environments, with Io having a proper ionosphere produced on top of an endogenous SO_2 atmosphere by magnetospheric particle precipitation and solar EUV, while Europa has a tenuous plasma environment produced by the same mechanisms from an oxygen atmosphere itself also produced by sputtering of water ice from its surface by impinging magnetospheric particles. In both cases the observed electron density profiles are highly asymmetrical, with a compressed profile on the ram side, and an extended one on the wake side. The presence of several measurements for each satellite at different ram-to-wake directions provided data for estimating an approximate distribution of ionization from the ram direction to the wake direction.

Contributed Paper
Session: ***Auroral Phenomena and Ionosphere/Magnetosphere Coupling***
Sponsoring Societies: DESPA. Observatoire de Paris, CNRS, CNES, COSPAR, ESA

MOP 1999 (Magnetospheres of the Outer Planets)
Paris, France
9-14 August, 1999